(a) whether his Ministry propose to promote production of Janata cloth in the backward areas;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government are also considering to set up a vigilance committee for monitoring proper distribution of Janata cloth; and

(d) if so, by when a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Janata cloth scheme is an ongoing scheme implemented by State agencies. The production under the scheme is carried out in areas of weaver concentration including backward areas. Nineteen States and one Union Territory have undertaken production under the scheme so far. The scheme envisages providing sustained employment to the weavers on the one hand and making available cheap cloth to the consumers on the other. At present, a subsidy of Rs. 3.40 per square metre is provided for production and delivery of janata cloth.

(c) and (d) A State level mechanism has been devised in the new guidelines for monitoring proper distribution of janata cloth. A High Powered State Level Implementation Committee headed by the Chief Secretary/Secretary of the Department has been envisaged. This committee has representatives of Civil Supplies Department, of the implementing agencies, and of the distribution agencies. Committee meets every quarter to monitor production and proper distribution of cloth produced under the scheme. However, a suggestion to introduce district level committees on pilot basis to begin with in some backward districts in the country is under scrutiny of the Ministry.

Protocol signed between India and Portugal for return of gold ornaments

*166. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Portugal have recently signed any protocol regarding the return to India of securities and gold ornames etc. and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof including total weight of gold involved therein?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) With the approval of Government of India, an agreement has been signed at New Delhi on 14.2.1991 between the Chairman, State Bank of India (SBI) and Chairman, Banco National Ultramarino (BNU), Lisbon, for repatriation of sealed packets containing the valuables pledged against loans and safe custody articles.

(b) In terms of the said agreement BNU would transfer en block to SBI all outstanding credits, securities and safe custody articles against lumpsum payment of principal outstanding, interest thereon and a fixed service charge. The total weight of the gold ornaments at the time of their removal to Portugal was estimated at 280582 grams.

Nationalisation of textile mills

*167. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for the nationalisation of 15 textile mills; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Government are examining various options regarding the future status of the 15 takenover mills presently under the management of NTC.

Shortfall in the production of Steel Authority of India Limited

*168. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Steel Authority of India Ltd. had suffered a shortfall of about 11 per cent in the production of saleable steel during the period April to September, 1990;

(b) if so, the comparative figures of production both in terms of quantity and cost for the preceding two years; and

(c) what are the main reasons for the shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI ASHOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) During the period mentioned, production of saleable steel was about 11 per cent less than the target. But the production for this period was more than the corresponding period of 1989.

(b) Saleable Steel Production of the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) for the current year and the preceding two years for the period April to September, was as pollows:

Unit '000 Tonnes

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Saleable Steel	3,254.8	3,[illegible]	[illegible]

It would not be in the commercial interest of SAIL to disclose the cost of production.

(c) The main reasons for the stated shortfall were:

(i) Unsatisfactory supply of power from Utilities and frequent systems disturbances especially at Bokaro;

(ii) Supplies of indigenous coking coal in inadequate quantities and of comparatively poorer quality;

(iii) Gas shortage due to restricted coke oven outputs; and

(iv) Other technological and organisational constraints.

Adverse effects on industry due to hike in excise duty on synthetics

*169. SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have realised that excise hike on synthetics particularly Polyester Filament Yarn has reduced the revenue and the expectation of higher revenue collection has been belied;

(b) what is the amount of revenue on PFY realised since its hike on December 15th last and what is the shortfall from expected revenue collections; and

(c) whether Government have realised that the rise in the rate of taxation has diminished production or retarded growth rate in several industries; if so, what are these industries?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The total amount of excise revenue collected from polyester filament yarn for the two months since 15th December, 1990 to 15th February, 1991 is provisionally placed at Rs. 239 crores. As compared to the monthly average of about Rs. 93 crores for the period 1.4.1990 to 14th December, 1990, the realisation of revenue so far after the duty hike does not indicate any shortfall.

(c) The growth rate of a particular industry depends not only on the cost of the products manufactured by it but also on a number of factors like the state of the economy, market competition, etc. Taxation is only one of the factors which have an effect on the growth rate. There is no evidence to show that growth of particular industries has been retarded on account of the burden of taxes.